

ADVERSE COMMENT ON THE SUPPOSED BRITISH STATUS OF
THE WEB-SPINNING SAWFLY *CEPHALCIA ARVENSIS* PANZER
(HYMENOPTERA: PAMPHILIIDAE)

MARK R. SHAW

National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF

Abstract. The policy adopted by compilers of the most recent check list of British Hymenoptera has been to disregard the records of L.A. Carr. In accordance with this sensible policy, *Cephalcia arvensis* Panzer should not be added to the British list even in the cautious way advocated recently by Shinohara (2002).

In this journal Shinohara (2002) has recently recorded *Cephalcia arvensis* Panzer, 1805, from Britain on the strength of a specimen in that part of the L.A. Carr collection that is now in the Oxford University Museum of Zoology, on the supposition that specimens in the Carr collection that bear the label "Lichfield, L.A. Carr" are reasonably reliably of British origin.

In fact, this supposition has been tested and shown to be incorrect in respect of ichneumonine Ichneumonidae, many specimens of which were found to be of continental origin despite being labelled Lichfield (Perkins, 1953). The general view has been that what is true of Ichneumoninae is likely to be true of other groups that Carr collected (i.e. and probably also received from correspondents abroad), and therefore the policy adopted by the compilers of the most recent check list of British Hymenoptera was to disregard L.A. Carr records (and by implication any new record based solely on his collection) such that species recorded by Carr and/or vouchered by his collection would not be included in the check list unless other British records or specimens were known (Fitton *et al.*, 1978: v-vi).

In accordance with that sensible policy, which has been widely adopted by others, *Cephalcia arvensis* Panzer should not be accepted as having been collected in Britain on the strength of the specimen labelled "Lichfield, L.A. Carr" recently determined by Shinohara, and this species should not be added to the British list even in the cautious way advocated by Shinohara (2002).

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